

# County Trends



## Duchesne

December 2002

### A Local Economic Perspective

#### Duchesne County 2002 - Growth Slows

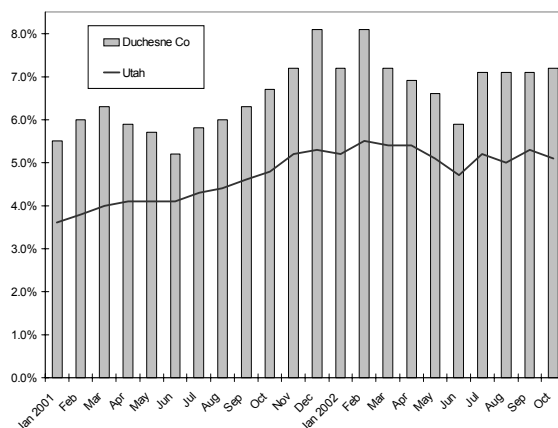
Duchesne County, which has experienced two years of robust growth, saw a dramatic slowdown in nonfarm employment in the first half of 2002. This has resulted in the unemployment rate rising. The most current unemployment rate for October 2002 is 7.2 percent, well above the state's rate of 5.1 percent.

#### *Still Adding Jobs - Slowly*

Nonfarm employment crept forward in Duchesne County in the first two quarters of 2002 compared to the first two quarters of 2001. The nonfarm job count rose 2.9 percent in the first quarter and 1.9 percent in the second quarter. Oil and gas mining, which had been the bellweather of growth, shed jobs in the second quarter. Service-production jobs increased in trade, health care, and government.

Goods-production jobs stagnated losing around 50 jobs in the second quarter. Oil and gas jobs fell as some reserves were depleted and exploration slowed. Heavy construction (roads, bridges, etc.) lost jobs as well. Building construction for homes and commercial structures showed some improvement. Manufacturing employment was largely unchanged from the previous year's total.

#### *Seasonally Adjusted Duchesne County Unemployment Rates*

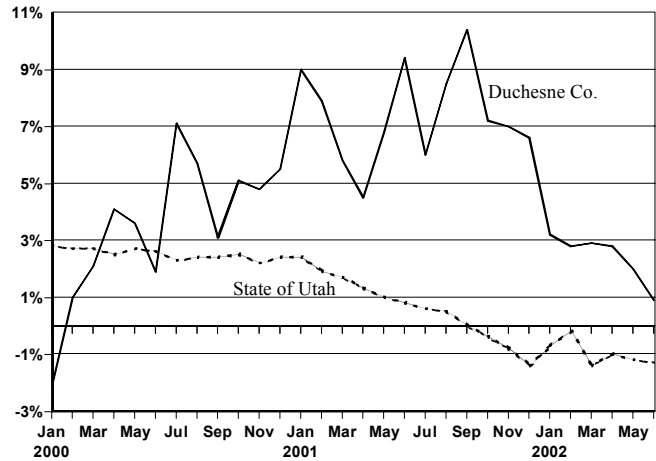


Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.





## Year-Over Change in Duchesne County Employment



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

# To the Point

**After enjoying robust growth in 2000 and 2001, Duchesne County's nonfarm employment slowed significantly in 2002. Recessionary impacts and lower demand for energy products hindered growth. While the rates of growth have slowed, the county continues to add jobs, particularly in health care.**

The service-producing industries, which include trade, transportation, information, recreation, lodging and food services, expanded during the first two quarters of 2002. Health care, both public and private, showed solid growth. Local government also added education-related jobs. Telecommunications added around 30 positions in information. Retail trade jobs increased at food stores. Wholesale trade employment also showed gains.

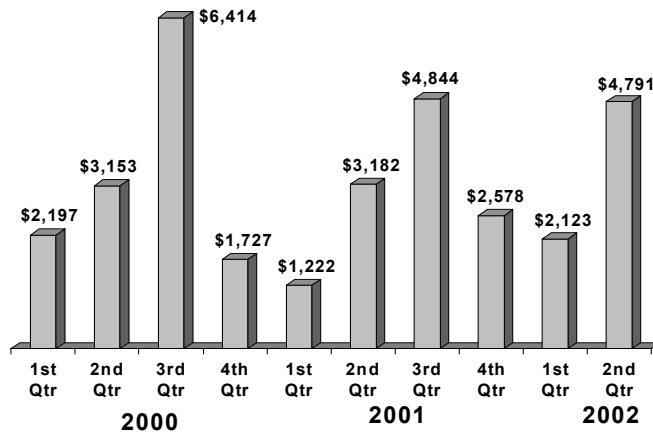
On the downside were losses in real estate, waste management, and food services. Federal government jobs were cut in land management agencies.

### ***Construction is a Bright Spot***

Year-over construction activity, as measured by permit authorizations, rose in the first six months of 2002. The total construction value increased 57 percent. Housing starts were up 35 percent as single-family and manufactured homes improved. Residential valuations rose 48 percent as well.

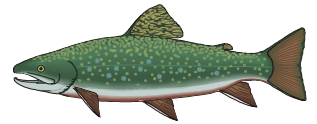
## Duchesne County Total Construction Permit Valuation

3



(Thousands of dollars)

Source: Utah Bureau of Economic & Business Research.



Nonresidential activity increased thanks to a new public building. Overall, the total value of nonresidential construction was nearly \$1.1 million in the first half of 2002. The valuation of renovation work declined slightly.

### Sales Tumble

Year-over gross taxable sales tumbled sharply in the first (-14.6%) and second quarters (-23.5%) of 2002. Particularly hard hit were mining, construction, manufacturing, and communications, which all recorded lower year-over sales. Retail trade sales also suffered as motor vehicle sales fell. Services sales were down due to declines in business services.

### Outlook for the Rest of 2002

The national recession and lower demand for energy combined to slow Duchesne County's growth. The uncertainty over energy prices will keep growth rates down throughout the rest of 2002, and into 2003.

Austin Sargent, Regional Economist  
 asargent@utah.gov, 801-526-9464

## Quick Facts

### October 2002

#### Unemployment Rate

Duchesne County	7.2%
Utah	5.2%
U.S.	5.6%

### June 2002 Change from Previous Year

#### Job Growth

Duchesne County	0.9%
Utah	-1.3%
U.S.	-1.1%

### 2nd Qtr 2002 Change from Previous Year

#### Construction Values

Duchesne County	57.0%
-----------------	-------

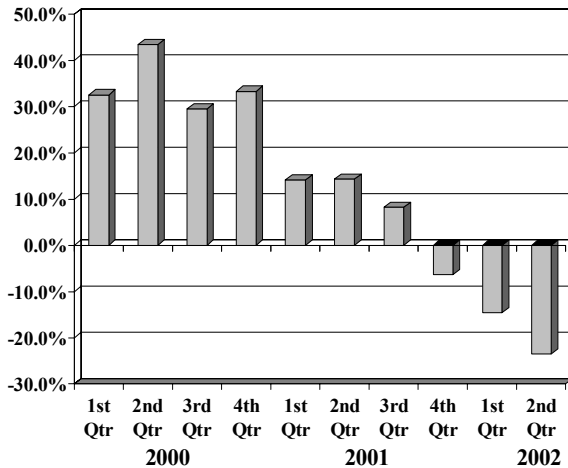
#### Sales

Duchesne County	-23.5%
-----------------	--------

Source: Utah Dept of Workforce Services,  
 Bureau of Labor Statistics,  
 Utah Tax Commission,  
 Bureau of Econ & Business Research.

**For more economic information about Duchesne County see:**  
<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/Regions/County.asp>

## Year-Over Change in Duchesne County Gross Taxable Sales



Source: Utah Tax Commission.

*The mission of the Utah Department of Workforce Services is to provide quality, accessible, and comprehensive employment-related and supportive services responsive to the needs of employers, job seekers, and the community.*

# What's Up? <sup>4</sup>

- The Uintah Basin Association of Government awarded a design build contract for its new 10,000 square foot office in Roosevelt. Construction is slated to begin in February 2003 on the \$800,000 building.
- Work is underway on the \$4.6 million culinary water system in the Hanna and Tabiona Valley. The new system will provide water to the 300 residents and to farms in the valley.

**For more economic events, see:**  
<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/Regions/eastern/duchesne/duchesneee.pdf>



**Utah!**  
*Where ideas connect™*

### Equal Opportunity Employment Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Call (801) 526-9240. Individuals with speech and/or hearing impairments may call the state relay at 1-800-346-4128



## Utah Department of Workforce Services

(801) 526-9786  
[jobs.utah.gov/wi](http://jobs.utah.gov/wi)  
[jkramer@utah.gov](mailto:jkramer@utah.gov)  
 PO Box 45249  
 Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0249